



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Annual El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society Dinner

When: Saturday, February 18, 2006 from 6-10pm

Where: Ardovino's Desert Crossing

Costs: \$18.00 per person (includes one entree, all sides, and gratuity); there will be a no-host bar.

Dinner Options: Choose between an entrée of herb roasted chicken or vegetarian baked pasta shells. Side dishes included with entree are a salad, a vegetable, garlic bread, dessert, tea and coffee.

Enjoy your meal and be entertained by a slide presentation of **Alaskan Adventures with Bob (Wildbirder) Johnson.**

RSVP by February 10, 2006 to Scott Cutler 581-6071 indicate how many will be attending and which entrée for each attendee.

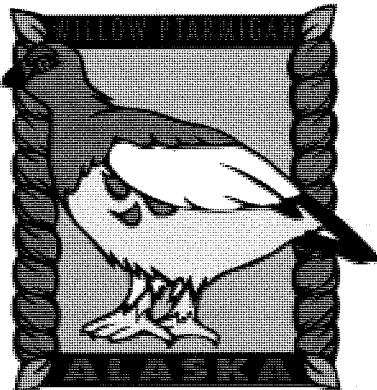
Monday, March 20,
2006 at 7:00 PM

UTEP Centennial Museum
At the corner of Wiggins and University
Mexico's Wildlife Conservation and Management

A program not to be missed! Alejandro Juarez-Reina, a senior UTEP student, will speak and show his own photos on his wildlife conservation work alongside native people of Sierra del Carmen, Mexico, a beautiful, rugged region across from Texas's Big Bend National Park. He will also discuss native animals and plants in diverse Mexican eco-regions, including a rare glimpse at a deer hunt by the indigenous people of Morelos, Mexico. Alejandro will conclude with a review of the state of wildlife in Mexico, the threats and prospects for the future.

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The Audubon Foundation of Texas represents Texas Audubon chapters in the Earth Share of Texas payroll-deduction plan for charitable giving.

Earth Share OF TEXAS

- Feather Lake: John Sproul, 545-5147
- Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
- Conservation: Gabe Valdes, 760-4074
- Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725
- Special Events:
- Projects: Carol Maxwell-Moreno, 593-0967

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

- President: Bob Garcia, 755-9119
- Vice President: Bob Johnson, 757-1876
- Secretary: Lucretia Chew, 587-9589
- Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

Committees

- Education: Beth & Bob Garcia, 755-9119
- Ways & Means: Flora Pittard, 852-2353
- Field Trips: Bob Johnson, 757-1876
- Publicity: Kathy Kiseda, 533-4615
- Hospitality: Scott Cutler, 581-6071
- Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408

Albertson's Partnership

Supporters are not required to be members of our organization, or even live in our part of the country. This link will be effective at whichever Albertsons anyone shops at and as such we would appreciate it if you might share this information with friends far and wide. This is a great way to support your local Audubon chapter's activities, but you'll have to take the step and link up. The sooner you do, the sooner we start earning money

If you are already linked with another organization or school, you will be pleased to know that you can support more than one partner, however, none will appreciate your participation more than Audubon. Let us know if we are to share your contributions or if you would prefer to delete previous affiliations.

EVERY DOLLAR THAT WE SPEND REACHING OUT TO THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE YOUNG, IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE.

A great big THANK YOU to our supporters and Albertsons alike for affording us this tremendous opportunity. We will keep you apprised of our progress.

TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SHORT FORM AND MAIL IT

To: EPTP Audubon Society, c/o Kathy Kiseda,
404 Kenyon Joyce Lane, El Paso, TX 79902

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: () _____

ALBERTSONS PREFERRED SAVINGS CARD NUMBER: _____

AT FEATHER LAKE

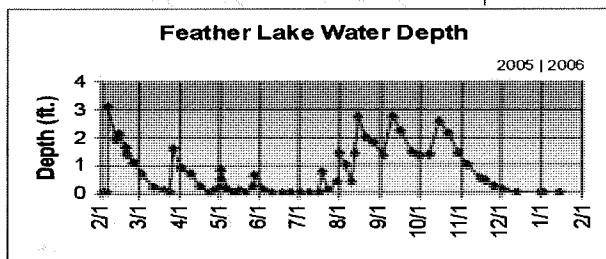
To prevent overloading of its existing system as east El Paso grows, El Paso Water Utilities is planning a new wastewater interceptor line in the Feather Lake vicinity. One 300-foot section of 36"-diameter pipe is currently proposed to be within the Feather Lake property. Originally, the proposed alignment avoided our sanctuary entirely, but problems obtaining an easement from one landowner on North Loop caused the engineers designing the project to look at an alternate alignment within our sanctuary.

The 300-foot segment would be 16 feet south of the fence along North Loop, in the area along the trail between the lake inlet and the east property fence. If installed by digging an open trench, the work would disturb an area approximately 30 feet wide, with all vegetation removed. We first learned of this planned alignment in November, when Brown and Caldwell, the engineering firm managing the project, asked us for input on measures to reduce impacts.

We are working with Brown and Caldwell on ways to minimize impacts to the sanctuary. Our first preference would be an alignment outside the Feather Lake property. Another option would be to bore the pipe in place rather than dig an open trench. Current plans call for construction in Spring 2007. We'll update you as the planning moves forward.

Many thanks go to the participants in our bimonthly workdays at the lake in 2005: Eddie Chew, Jane Fowler, Edgar Sandoval and John Sproul. Thanks also go to the City of El Paso Street Department for repairing a break in the fence at the back of the sanctuary.

Feather Lake went dry in mid-December, and we now have it closed until water returns. But don't let a little lack of water keep you from visiting on Sat., March 26, the date of our next workday. Join us at 2 p.m. to help with habitat management at our sanctuary. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



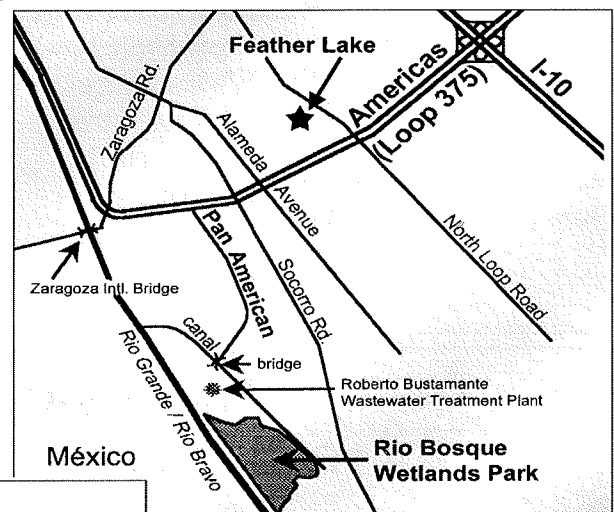
RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

UTEP offers free walking tours twice each month and also holds monthly community workdays at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, 4 miles from Feather Lake.

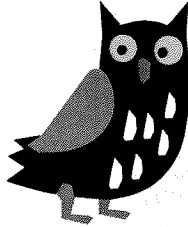
Coming up:

- 9 a.m. Sat., Feb. 11 (Birds)
- 9 a.m. Sat. Feb. 18 (Workday)
- 3 p.m. Sun., Feb. 19 (Introductory)
- 3 p.m. Sun., Mar. 5 (Birds)
- 9 a.m. Sat., Mar. 18 (Workday)
- 9 a.m. Sat., Mar. 25 (Introductory)

For all of these activities, the meeting place is a bridge crossing Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Dr., turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge. Please be prompt. Information: 747-8663.



Audubon Chapter T-Shirts



The long awaited, highly anticipated, and truly beautiful 'new' chapter T-shirt is now available for purchase. The shirt displays a grouping of some local birds, not found in most other places.

A great T-shirt makes a wonderful, yet moderately priced, gift. Wearing it, advertises the chapter and your concerns for wild things.

Proceeds from the sales of the shirts will help to offset the costs of various chapter initiatives, such as our education and conservation projects, & is thus a gift to wildlife as well as to yourself or a loved one.

For more information, call Flora Pittard at 852-2353

WANTED: Keystone Site-'New' Bird Species Sightings REWARD: \$15/ first sighting!

John Kiseda

With the Keystone site's bird checklist now at 189 species, I wanted to try to add an incentive to get some more birders to go out and help add some new species to the list!

For each new species that is observed by someone else, for the list to reach the 200 species level, I will donate \$15 in cash &/or birding equipment (they don't have any optics or field guides for visitors/volunteer use) to Keystone Heritage Park, Inc. [KHP].

'Proof of Sightings' can be discussed with me, on a case by case basis.

The bird's listed below are some of the more likely species that may be found at the site, but there are other less likely or more difficult to identify species, as well (review the site's checklist on the KHP or EP/T-P Audubon websites, to determine which additional species have not been seen at the site).

Hopefully this 'incentive' to help the Keystone group, will spur you to visit Keystone more frequently and help to 'build-up' the bird checklist!

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Willet | ANY godwit | Merlin |
| Sandhill crane | Eurasian collared dove | Barn owl |
| Great-horned owl | Calliope hummer | Cordilleran flycatcher |
| Willow flycatcher | Cassin's kingbird | ANY vireo |
| ANY nuthatch | Rock wren | ANY pipit |
| Lucy's warbler | ANY waterthrush | Yellow-breasted chat |
| Hooded oriole | Scott's oriole | Indigo bunting |
| Painted bunting | American goldfinch | Black-throated sparrow |
| Bronzed cowbird | Common grackle | |

**Thank you Dr. Vikki Milne
for your January, 2006 talk on Avian Flu!**

<http://www.gbarnett.com/eptpas/eptpashome.html>

El Paso Audubon Online supplements the Roadrunner and includes information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of upcoming events, recent bird sightings and an updated list of birding links to the Internet.

Make bird sighting reports at: ElPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com

OBSERVATIONS

September 16, 2005 to January 15, 2006

Listing of birds is determined using the checklist "Birds of El Paso County, Texas and Adjacent Areas" 8th Edition May 2003. The area is defined as the western one-half of Hudspeth County (west of longitude 105 30, and the southern one-third of Dona Ana County (south of latitude 32 10) the line will be approximately thru Mesquite.

Leave sightings at Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson, E-mail bobwildbirderj@cs.com, phone (915) 757-1876.

Uncommon - no highlights; **Rare - bold highlights; Casual - bold and shaded**

Observers: Dan Allen; Al Gavit; Tom Gill; Jeff Groff; Hugh Jameson; Bob Johnson; Kathy Kiseda; John Kiseda; Jim Paton; Susie Schnieder; John Sproul; Jimmy Zabriskie; Barry Zimmer. -y in their yard

Locations: BgB-Big Bend; Cor-Coronado Area; FLk-Feather Lake; FtH-Fort Hancock; GSc-Girl Scout; Hor-Horizon City; HTk-Hueco Tanks; KnJ-Kenyon Joyce; Key-Keystone; LaU-LaUnion; McN-McNary Resv; NxD-Nemexas Drain; RBq-Rio Bosque; SRT-Sunland Racetrack; Tor-Tornillo Resv; Ton-Tonto; XRd-Cross roads Ponding; Zoo-El Paso Zoo.

Loons thru Geese

Common Loon	10/23	JP	Tor
	11/26	JS	RBq
Least Grebe	12/31	BJ	XRd
(2d El Paso County Record)			
Horned Grebe	12/17	BZ	McN
Am White Pelican	10/10	TG	Key
White-faced Ibis	All	JS	RBq
Ross's Goose	12/8	JS	RBq
Cackling Goose	1/14	JP	FtH
(1st Hudspeth County Record)			

Ducks thru Wading Birds

Wood Duck	10/15	JS	FLk
Eurasian Wigeon	11/10-1/7	JS	RBq
Blue-winged Teal	12/27	AG	Hor
Broad-winged Hawk	10/8	JP	NxD
Merlin	11/20	JS	RBq
Peregrine Falcon	9/26	JK	Key
Sora	10/2	JK	Key
Sandhill Crane (flying overhead)	10/21	JS	RBq
	11/9	BZ-y	Ton
Snowy Plover	9/17	JK	Key
Long-billed Curlew	11/20	JS	RBq
Pectoral Sandpiper	10/1	JP	GSc
Wilson's Snipe	12/11	JS	RBq

Gulls thru Hummers

Franklin's Gull	11/26	JK	Key
Thayer's Gull	11/26	JK	Key
Glauous Gull (1st El Paso County Record)	12/20	JP	SRT
	12/28	BZ	Key
Sabine's Gull	10/16	JP	McN
Common Tern	9/23	BZ	McN
Black-billed Cuckoo	10/5	BZ-Y	Ton
(1st El Paso County Record)			
Chimney Swift (probable)	9/28	BZ-y	Ton
Broad-billed Hummer	10/6-12/12	BZ-y	Ton

Woodpeckers thru Creeper

Acorn Woodpecker	11/13	JP	Cor
Red-naped Sapsucker	11/17	JP	BSc
Cordilleran Flycatcher	12/17	JZ	McN
Eastern Phoebe	11/17	JS	RBq
Vermillion Flycatcher	11/18	JS	RBq
Common Raven	12/17	JP	McN
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10/29	JP-y	BSc
Brown Creeper	11/1	DA	LaU
	11/21	JG-y	AtI

Thrushes thru Tanager

Western Bluebird	12/20	BZ-y	Ton
Hermit Thrush	10/15	TG	Msh
Gray Catbird	10/10	HJ	BgB
	12/18	BJ	HTk
Northern Parula	10/8	JP	NxD
Black-th Gray Wbler	11/8	BZ-y	Ton
American Redstart	9/17	JS	Flk
Common Yellowthroat	1/6	DA	NxD
Summer Tanager	9/25	JK	Key
(new for Keystone)			

Towhee thru Orioles

Spotted Towhee	12/11	KK	KnJ
Fox Sparrow	1/2	BZ-y	Ton
Golden-crowned Spw	12/17	JZ	McN
Chsnut-colored Longsr	12/17	BZ	McN
Rose-brstd Grosbek	10/3	BZ-y	Ton
Rusty Blackbird	12/11	JS	RBq
Common Grackle	11/20	JP-y	BSc
Baltimore Oriole	10/22	JP-y	BSc
Streak-backed Oriole	9/16	BZ-y	Ton
(2d Texas Record)			

BIRD WATCHING

BACKYARD BIRDS

DATE: Sunday, February 5.

A stop in a members backyard to learn something about the birds, feeders and feeding. *Pine Siskin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and House Finch* are some of the birds that will probably be seen. *Phainopeplas* are very possible. Coffee, juice and ?? will be on hand.

TIME: 8-11 AM We will not be going any place else so come whenever you can.

MEET at: Mary Lou Alcorns Wildbird Sanctuary at **4331 Emory.**

DOWN THE VALLEY

McNary, Fort Hancock and Tornillo Reservoirs are usually good for *Clark's and Western Grebes, Gulls, Ducks, Egrets, Cormorants*, also *White Pelicans* could be present. We might catch a few passerines and most likely some birds of prey, probably a *Harris' Hawk* and sometimes a *Peregrine Falcon* has been around. Bring something to eat as we will lunch at the Tornillo Rest area.

Date: **Saturday, Feb 11th**
 Time: **7:38 AM**
 Meet at: Feather Lake
 Leader: Call Bob &757-1876

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The 9th Annual Count will be conducted Feb 17-20. The count is an individual participation, on which day and location you desire. No fee or registration required, all ages and skill levels are welcome. Join with thousands of others to find how many birds are being seen in your area and across the continent this winter. For more information, and get started, go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK BIRDS

What: Birding Watching Lessons by El Paso Audubon. Learn to identify some the birds of Keystone.

When: **8:00 - 12 a.m. Saturday, Feb.25**

Where: **Keystone Heritage Park** (East of Doniphan near Frontera) Come whenever you can and stay for an hour or two or more. Bob Johnson, 757-1876, bobwildbirderj@cs.com for information.

Bring: **Binoculars** (we have spares)

Cost: **FREE**

Summary: Keystone Heritage Park has recorded **190** species of resident and migratory birds. See a variety of ducks and shorebirds, hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls spend some time during the day before going to roost at night in the Sunland Park Lake, quite often a rare gull shows up.

Young and "beginner" birders welcome.



Black-necked Stilt at Keystone

Another learning experience.

The Master Naturelist class of 2006 will be having a field ornathology class, you are welcome to attend. Saturday March 18, time approximately 8:00 AM. For details of exact time and location call or e-mail Bob (915)757-1876 bobwildbirderj@cs.com, after March 1st.

LAKE STINKY

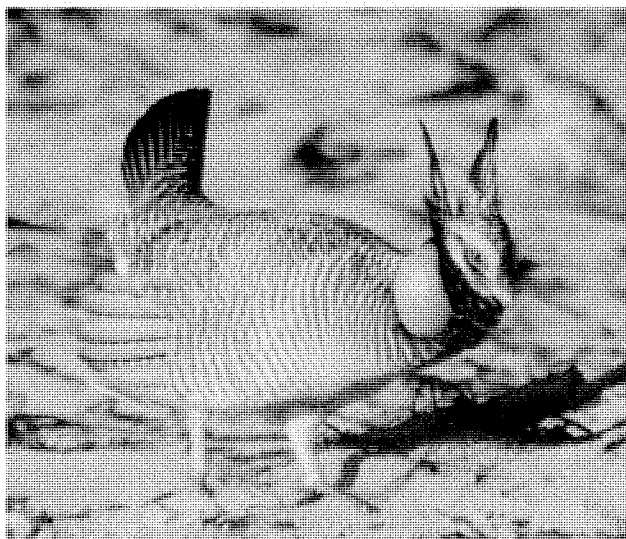
Sunday, March 26

Located southwest of Alamogordo NM off US 70, Near Holloman Air Force Base. A good spot for migrant shorebirds, ducks and others. Bring lunch and water.

Meet: Lowe's parking lot 4531 Trans. Mt. Rd. on the front side behind Taco Bell .

TIME: 7:29 AM

LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN



5th High Plains Prairie-Chicken Festival

April 7-9, 2006 in Milnesand, New Mexico

Each spring, the Lesser Prairie-chicken, an icon of the Southern Great Plains, congregates on traditional booming grounds called leks. To witness these birds during their mating ritual is an experience that you will not forget.

The cost of the 3 day festival is \$80 per person, which covers the cost of 5 meals (2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners), coffee & donuts, a commemorative poster, and all field trips.

For details about accommodations and schedule Call Bob, phone and e-mail above.

HUECO TANKS

Admission: Hueco Tanks Historical Park - \$4. \$2 for Seniors 65, Children under 12 - FREE.

Bird Identification Tours

Sunday February 19 8:08 AM

Sunday March 19 8:08 AM

Sunday April 16 8:08 AM

Check in at the Headquarters and Info 857-1135.

Leader Bob "Wildbirder" 757-1876.

PLANNING AHEAD

MAY Birdathon probably the 6th and 7th.

Southeast AZ - - Huachucas this year.

May 26 - 29.

This summer probable weekend trips to Gila Cliff Dwellings, Ruidoso (Bonito Lake), Water Canyon (Bosque Del Apache NWR included).

If anyone knows of other places that would be good birding and fun, in place of or in addition to these mentioned, let Bob know.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This years Hueco Tanks Count was held on 17 Dec and we had 7 counters. A Great Blue Heron and

Common Mergansers were recorded for the first time. Species with total birds above average were Gambel's Quail, Rock Pigeon, White Wing Dove, Inca Dove, Burrowing Owl and Lesser Goldfinches. Below average counts occurred with Northern Harrier, Horned Lark, Cactus Wren, Rock Wren, Canyon Towhee, Brewers Sparrow, and House Finch. The 57 species and 2361 total birds were about average.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos
 Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 972441
 El Paso, Texas 79997

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Return service request

National Audubon Society
 Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20.00 is enclosed

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____

*Please make all checks payable to the
 National Audubon Society*

National Audubon Society
 Chapter Membership Data Center
 P.O. Box 51001
 Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001
 El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon

W10
 Local Chapter Code
7XCHA

Dates to Remember Call Bob Johnson for details 757-1876

February

Sun.5: Field Trip **Backyards**
 Mon 6: **Board Meeting**
 Sat.11&18, Sun.19 **Rio Bosque**
 Sat. 11: Field Trip **McNary**
 17-20: **Backyard Bird Count**
 Sat. 18 **Awards Dinner**
 Sat 25: Field Trip **Keystone**

March

Sat. 18: **Field Trip**
Rio Bosque: 5, 18, 25
 Mon 13: **Board Meeting**
 Sun. 19: **Hueco Tanks**
 Mon 20: **General Meeting**
 Sun. 26: Field Trip
Lake Stinky

April

Sat & Sun 7-9
Prairie Chicken Fest.
 Mon 10: **Board Meet**
 Sun 16: **Hueco Tanks**
 Mon 17: **General Meet**

May

6 & 7: **Birdathon**
 26-29: **Huachucas, AZ**

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Local **Chapter Only Membership** Your \$15.00 will help support chapter activities & you'll receive

The Roadrunner delivered to your mailbox.

Make checks payable to the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: EPTP Audubon P.O. Box 972441 El Paso, Texas 79997

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